

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03039 241524Z

41

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 FDRE-00 SS-15 SP-02 IGA-02

EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGR-10 CIEP-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 XMB-04 IO-11 /149 W

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R 241508Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6672

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BONN 03039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GW, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER FOOD AID

REF: (A) STATE 40560; (B) NIAMEY 4L0; (C) NIAMEY 652

EMBOFF DISCUSSED NIGER FOOD SITUATION AND FRG
FOOD ASSISTANCE WITH DIRECTOR OF FOOD ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS IN MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (MEC).
HE TOLD US THAT FRG NOW PLANS FOOD ASSISTANCE
IN 1976 AS FOLLOWS:

(A) 3,300 MT WHEAT FLOUR (EQUIVALENT OF 5,000 MT WHEAT)

(B) 3,000 MT LOCALLY PROCURED SORGHUM THROUGH
OSRO-FRG (PROCURED IN UPPER VOLTA).

(C) 5,000 MT MILLET THROUGH OSRO-FRG (PROCURED IN
MALI).

(D) 50 TONS OF BUTTER OIL.

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PAGE 02 BONN 03039 241524Z

FOOD OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE FRG HAD INTENDED

TO PROVIDE 6,600 MT OF WHEAT FLOUR (10,000 WHEAT EQUIVALENT) BUT THAT AFTER REASSESSING NIGER NEEDS THEY DECIDED TO PROVIDE ONLY ONE-HALF NOW AND TO CONSIDER GIVING THE BALANCE LATER THIS YEAR IF IT IS NEEDED. IN GENERAL THE FRG BELIEVES THAT THE NIGER ESTIMATES OF 200,000 MT FOOD SHORTFALL IS TOO HIGH. OUR SOURCE SEES NO REASON TO DOUBT THE 76,000 MT FIGURE CALCULATED BY THE OSRO TEAM WHICH VISITED MALI LAST NOVEMBER.

IN CHECKING WITH BOTH MEC OFFICIALS AND FORNMIN DESK OFFICER FOR NIGER EMBOFF LEARNED THAT NIGER'S AMBASSADOR HAS NOT CALLED UPON GERMAN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE FOOD SITUATION. MEC FOOD AID OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD PROBABLY NOT RESULT IN GREATER FOOD AID AT THIS TIME IN ANY CASE. NIGER APPARENTLY HAS A HISTORY OF INFLATING ITS FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS AND THE FRG IS NOW WEARY OF BILATERAL REQUESTS MADE BY THE NIGER GOVERNMENT. THE FRG IS PREPARED TO ATTEND A DONOR'S MEETING IN ROME UNDER FAO AUSPICES, AT WHICH TIME NIGER'S FOOD NEEDS WOULD BE THOROUGHLY EVALUATED BY EXPERTS, AND WOULD CONSIDER FURTHER ASSISTANCE IF SO RECOMMENDED BY THE FAO/OSRO EXPERTS.

LIKE THE U.S. THE FRG WISHES TO BE HELPFUL AND WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO INSURE THAT A FAMINE IS AVOIDED; AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE FRG DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION IS ACUTE. FOOD AID OFFICIAL PLACED CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO COORDINATE DONOR ACTION NOTING THAT TRANSPORTATION BOTTLENECK CAN ONLY BE OVERCOME THROUGH COORDINATED DELIVERY SCHEDULES.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN03039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0515
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaarsn.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 40560, 76 NIAMEY 652
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGER FOOD AID
TAGS: EAID, GE, NG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006